

ADDENDUM

I finished the article you just read in mid January 1991. It has been over a half year since the report was completed. What follows is an update.

Of some importance is the fact that fellow researcher Gary Mack and I succeeded in contacting Linda Wells. Linda Wells is Roscoe White's sister. Additionally, we gained indirect contact, through Linda, with Merle Rogers, White's mother. Gary and I conducted a four hour video taped interview with Linda in late June. Her comments put some of this "story" into perspective.

I continue my efforts in resolving White's involvement, if any, in the assassination. Now I can take information to Linda who discusses the material with her mother. They report back what they remember.

For example,

Other investigators were working on the theory, originally advanced by the JFK Assassination Information Center, that Roscoe White was responsible for forging the "backyard photos." The Center indicated that White was a photography enthusiast, had a darkroom, and printed trick photos such as his children floating in mid-air or a bowling ball landing in the wrong alley. This led to the claim that it was White who stuck Oswald's head on photographs of Roscoe's body.

We asked Linda Wells and through her, her mother, what they knew about this.

Linda and Merle never knew Roscoe to have a photographic hobby.

They had never seen any examples of his work. Originals or copies have been requested from Ricky White and The JFK Center for months, but examples have never been provided.

In a related episode, Merle Rogers was shown a copy of the Philippines photo which supposedly shows Roscoe and Oswald together. She could not identify her own son as the Marine in the background! She felt the physique was somewhat similar, but the hat was so far down over the face..no one tell for sure.

In April, two local researchers were contacted by a military associate of White. He related a story that White broke his right wrist during a howitzer recoil accident. While looking at the backyard photographs he pointed out a bump on White's right wrist supposedly the result of the accident.

My copy of the military records shows no accident resulting in a broken wrist.

Merle Rodgers told Linda that Roscoe did break his wrist, but not in the service. He broke it in a sawmill accident before he entered the Marines. A drive belt had broken and slashed his wrist.

If you look at your own wrists, you will find bumps. In my opinion they are caused by the common protrusion from the ulna bone.

Early on I recognized the possibility of problems with obtaining records. Ricky White, Matsu and The JFK Center had consistently refused to provide original documentation. On February 28, 1991 I filed a FOIA request with the National Personal Records Center in St. Louis, MO. I received acknowledgement of my request on March 4th. Not being next of kin, I expected a long wait; however, now that the Rogers and Wells families are involved, things have changed. They are filing their own request.

More information from the Linda Wells interview;

Roscoe was a rookie in the fingerprint department. He told his mother and sister he was getting to see evidence as it was brought in. He saw the police officer actually trying to find fingerprints on the gun used to kill Kennedy - hardly the statement of one of the assassins.

Roscoe told Linda he got his set of photographs, those later provided the Schweiker committee, while on his job with the Dallas Police Department. He felt he was not supposed to have copies and he believed he might get into trouble if his superiors knew. Again, hardly the statement of an assassin.

As an interesting aside, the JFK Center indicated that the additional "backyard" photo (CE-133 C) was one "...which [had] never before surfaced;...". This is not true. The HSCA Appendix to Hearings, Volume VI, Photographic Evidence, page 180, shows another version of this photograph was supplied by Dallas Police Officer Richard Stovall.

Linda Wells claims Gary Cartwright quoted her out of context in his article "I WAS MANDARIN..." for the December 1990 issue of Texas Monthly magazine. The quote later appeared in Newsweek on December 10, 1990.

"I think he was the Oliver North of his time. He was just doing what he thought was best for our country."

"Texan LINDA WELLS, sister of the late Roscoe Wells (sic). She is one of several conspiracy theorists who think he was the actual killer of John Kennedy."

Linda states Cartwright asked her a series of questions concerning Roscoe's role in the assassination. Linda maintained her brother could not be involved. Cartwright asked if she was shown absolute proof, what would she say? It was only at that point that she said "I think he was the Oliver North...etc."

In May 1991, Gary Mack and I were given copies of a newspaper article on the Patterson-Rogers wedding. It reported Linda Merle Rogers married John Patterson. The ceremony was performed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Dees. Mrs. Dees was the former Geneva White. The best man was Ricky White. The matron of honor was Mrs. Ray Tippit. Since Ray Tippit was the brother of J.D. Tippit, we were told the wedding announcement was proof Roscoe White was a friend of J.D. Tippit.

Since Linda Wells is the former Linda Patterson, we asked about the connection. Linda felt this was preposterous. "Using this 1974 article to make a connection between J.D. Tippit, my brother and me is foolish. It was only Ray's wife that was a friend, not the whole Tippit family! Ray Tippit never even showed up. How irresponsible can these people be?"

Since November 1990, The JFK Assassination Information Center promised an interim report on the White case. The report was to be prepared by the office of the Texas Attorney General. It came, not as a report, but as an article by Earl Golz in the February 2, 1991 edition of The Austin (TX) American-Statesman.

"MORALES TO CLOSE FILE ON OFFICER
LINKED TO KENNEDY ASSASSINATION"

"So far everything we have looked at has not given any credibility to anything these people have been trying to say about the documents and that whole affair, said Morales' aide Ron Dusek." *

Linda now says Ricky feels abandoned. Andy Burke tried, in Ricky's words, "to loot the story" and was asked to leave by Matsu. Joe West was fired by the JFK Center at the time of the press conference. Ricky believed West used their friendship to obtain the "cables," which West then held for safekeeping. Matsu finally obtained the "cables" from West, but only after filing a temporary restraining order (Harris County #90-053893). The state of Matsu is unknown. Three weeks after the Ricky White press conference Reverend Jack Shaw denied hearing a death bed confession from Roscoe White. He has made no further comment. Linda says Tony White, Ricky's brother, almost lost his job over this episode. Geneva White died in February, 1991.

Not mentioned at the press conference was the fact that Ricky White flew to California a few weeks earlier to meet with Oliver Stone. I also determined The JFK Center did have an \$80,000 agreement with Stone to consult on a movie about the assassination. That contract may have been signed shortly after the press conference.

The existence of the contract was made public by Jerry Urban of the Houston Chronicle. Urban had been interviewing Gary Mack about the Stone film. During the course of their conversation Mack revealed he had a copy of a draft contract between Stone and The JFK Center. When Urban asked for a copy, Gary declined to provide one. Urban then called Bud Fensterwald of the AARC and Kitman Ho, Stone's executive producer. Both confirmed the agreements existence.

In an October 1990, letter to Mack's employer, KXAS - TV, the JFK Center threatened both Gary and the station with a lawsuit. The lawsuit was based on the belief that the contract between The JFK Center and Stone might be canceled because Mack had divulged some terms of the agreement to the Houston Chronicle. If the contract were to be canceled, The JFK Center would demand restitution in the amount of \$80,000 for the contract and \$5,000,000 in damages.

I find it sad that so few people are interested in repairing the damage done to Roscoe White's name. Damage done, it appears, in the hopes of fame, money or both.

With respect to Oliver Stone's film "JFK,"

You may have learned that Warren Commission critics Harold Weisberg and David Lifton as well as defender David Belin are concerned about the movie.

On May 19, 1991, George Lardner's critical article "On The Set: Dallas In Wonderland" appeared in the Washington Post.

Stone replied to the Post two weeks later with "Stone's 'JFK': A Higher Truth? The Post, George Lardner and My Version of the JFK Assassination"

With all the charges and counter-charges, little attention has been paid Stone's change in ideology before and after gaining access to the former Texas School Book Depository.

When the film's advance staff was in Dallas, they tried to obtain approval for access to the building from the Dallas County Commissioners. At that time Stone was stressing the need for accuracy in reports to the media.

Here's a sample of Oliver Stone's quotes about "JFK" that appeared in the April 14, 1991 edition of the Dallas Morning News.

"It's a question of accuracy. It's always better to be accurate if you can."

"And these are native Texans. They say, 'We want the truth to be known. We're glad you're making it here.'"

"There is a younger generation of people that want some element of truth to come out."

Once filming in Dallas was nearly complete and the company moved on to New Orleans, Stone's statements about the film changed.

From the June 24th edition of the Los Angeles Times Calendar article by Elaine Duta,

OLIVER STONE FIGHTS BACK

"..... His "JFK" is still being filmed but critics are already assailing its accuracy and motives. 'This isn't history, this is moviemaking,' the director rejoins-and star Kevin Costner agrees."

Why do I bring this up?

On April 19, 1991 I received an invitation to observe some of the filming. This was during the film companies "need for historical accuracy" period. I observed the crew filming an actor in a Dallas policeman's uniform shooting from the acoustic position.

Exactly where Ricky White claimed the diary said his father was.

I also saw the Gordon Arnold character. For the shot to pass over Arnold's left shoulder as he revealed to the Dallas Morning News in 1978 Stone had Arnold standing much closer to the street than he really claimed he was.

Unless that scene is edited or cut, we will see Roscoe White not necessarily by name but by implication. Oliver Stone can claim it's only a movie, not a documentary, but that scene will have a profound impact on the audience. By innuendo, Roscoe White, without any proof, has been charged with the killing of President John F. Kennedy.

To paraphrase one of Roscoe White's best friends, who was also a pallbearer at his funeral;

Some "researchers" have done to Roscoe White exactly what The Warren Commission did to Lee Harvey Oswald.

Dave Perry

- * At the time of the press conference the Attorney General was Jim Maddox. After the November 1990 election, he was replaced in January 1991 by Dan Morales. Ron Dusek had responsibilities for the White investigation under both administrations. He made comments similar to those made to Earl Golz in the Dallas area television and print media.